

Arts Integration: A Mastodon is not a Dinosaur!

Lesson Plan

Lesson Name: Comparing and Contrasting a Mastodon to dinosaurs, and woolly mammoths.

This lesson will take place over the course of many weeks, as the students research the similarities and differences between the different animals and the mastodon.

Goal: To create an understanding of the similarities and differences between a mastodon, a dinosaur, and a woolly mammoth.

Objective:

The students will be able to do the following:

- Students will brainstorm what they know about dinosaurs, woolly mammoths, and mastodons.
- As a class (whole group and small groups), students will research characteristics of the mastodon (including: what they ate, where they lived, what type of animal they were, etc.). The teacher helps students create a whole group characteristics fact page.
- As a class, students will research characteristics of dinosaurs (2-4 kinds), and woolly mammoths (on separate days).
- Older buddies (4th/5th grade students) will aide Kindergarten students in researching mastodons, woolly mammoths and dinosaurs using online resources in our computer lab.
- Older buddies will help Kindergarten students create Venn Diagrams to compare/contrast mastodons and woolly mammoths.
- As a class, students will compare and contrast a mastodon to the other animals.
- Students will use the research they gain about mastodons, woolly mammoths, and dinosaurs to write and illustrate informative texts.

Grade Level: Kindergarten

Arts Standards addressed:

- ART.I.VA.EL.1
- ART.I.VA.EL.2
- ART.I.VA.EL.3
- ART.I.VA.EL.4
- ART.II.VA.EL.3
- ART.II.VA.EL.4

Other Subject Areas Standards addressed:

Kindergarten Science GLCES

- Identify that living things have basic needs (food, habitat, etc.).
- Identify and compare living and nonliving things

Kindergarten ELA GLCES

- R.IT.00.01
- R.IT.00.03
- R.IT.00.04
- R.CM.00.03
- R.CM.00.04
- W.GN.00.04
- W.PR.00.01
- W.PR.00.02
- W.PR.00.03

Kindergarten Common Core State Standards

Reading Standards

Craft and Structure

- Identify the front cover, back cover, and title page of a book.
- With prompting and support, name the author and illustrator of a text and define the role of each in presenting the ideas or information in a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the text in which they appear

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

- Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.

Writing Standards

Text Types and Purpose

- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory text in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

- Participate in shared research and writing projects.
- With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

Instructional Outline:**Introduction:**

The students will be introduced to the Owosso mastodon by viewing pictures of the fossilized skeleton. The history of this mastodon, including the personal history to the teacher will also be discussed.

Classroom Management Strategy:

Students will be actively involved in this lesson through brainstorming, listening, researching, creating the animal fact pages, and comparing and contrasting.

Prep Activity:

Each lesson day, students will begin by brainstorming what they know about the topic animal (mastodon, dinosaur, woolly mammoth)

Main Activity:

1. Using informative texts and the internet the teacher will guide the students, in large and small groups, through learning specific characteristics of each animal (mastodon, woolly mammoth, and dinosaurs).
2. The students will discover: what each animal ate, where each animal lived, when each animal lived, and what each animal looked like.
3. The students will, after completing research about each animal, create collaborative classroom fact sheets to compare the mastodon to the dinosaur, and woolly mammoth.
4. Using the research gathered students will write and illustrate pages for a classroom text about mastodons, mammoths, and dinosaurs.

Additional Information:

Materials Needed:

Chart paper

Informative texts, or age-appropriate internet sites containing facts about mastodons, dinosaur (meat eater and plant eater—T-Rex and Stegosaurus), woolly mammoth, and elephant.

Markers

Large paper for student page of classroom book.

Outcomes/Assessment:

The students knowledge gained through research about mastodons, dinosaurs (2-4 kinds, student choice), and woolly mammoths and

understanding will be assessed through the Venn diagrams they create as a class (or with older buddies), and through the writing and illustrating of informative texts.

Potential Challenges:

Finding information that is age-appropriate for Kindergarten students.

Explaining information at an age-appropriate level.

Organizing older buddy meetings.

Organizing small groups for researching.

AtoZ Kid Stuff atozkidstuff.com

Eduplace.com/state/mi/mi_links.html

Museum.state.il.us/exhibits/larson/smilodon

Sdnhm.org/exhibits/mystery/fg_mastodon

Bbc.co.uk/nature/wildfacts/factfiles/3004

Members.cox.net/pyrophyllite/mastodon

Grandpa's Tooth A True Mastodon Story. Snyder-Downing, L. (2006).